

**R E M A R K S**

Claim 1 was amended by incorporating the features recited in original claim 2 (the nonionic surfactant having a HLB of 2 to 15) and by introducing a recitation that the thickness of the hard coat layer is 2 to 20  $\mu\text{m}$  (which is supported on page 15, lines 7 to 8 of the specification). Claim 1 was also amended to recite that the hard coat layer is formed by applying a coating fluid comprising (A) and (B) and curing the formed coating layer with an ionization radiation, which is supported by page 5, lines 5 to 9 (in the DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS) of the present specification.

Original Claims 2, 4, 6 and 8 were cancelled hereinabove.

Claims 3, 5 and 7 were editorially amended hereinabove.

New Claims 9 and 10 are supported by page 6, line 23 bridging to page 8, line 18 of the present specification.

New Claims 11 and 12 are supported by page 11, line 19 bridging to page 12, line 21 of the present specification.

New Claim 13 is supported by page 12, lines 22 to 24 of the present specification.

New Claims 14, 15 and 17 (which recite that the hard coat layer comprises fine particles having an average diameter of 0.1 to 10  $\mu\text{m}$  in an amount of 0.1 to 20 parts by weight per 100 parts by

weight of the resin) are supported by page 17, lines 7 to 10 of the present specification.

New Claims 16 to 18 (which recite that the nonionic surfactant has a HLB of 4 to 14) are supported by page 10, lines 6 to 7 of the present specification.

New Claims 19 and 20 are supported by page 16, lines 12 to 14 of the present specification.

New Claims 21 to 24 are supported by page 16, lines 10 to 11 of the present specification.

In Item 1 on page 2 of the Office Action, claims 1 to 8 were rejected under 35 USC 112, first paragraph for the following reason:

"...the specification., while being enabling for a hard coat film comprising a substrate having a thickness of 20 to 300 microns and a hard coat layer having a thickness of 2 to 20 microns thereon wherein the hard coat layer comprises 100 parts of an ionizing radiation curable resin and a nonionic surfactant having a HLB of 2 to 15 and fine particles having an average diameter of 0.1 to 10 microns in an amount of 0.1 to 20 parts by weight, does not reasonably provide enablement for a hard coat film comprising a substrate and a hard coat layer thereon wherein the hard coat layer comprises 100 parts of an ionizing radiation curable resin and a nonionic surfactant. The specification does not enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is almost nearly connected, to practice the invention commensurate in scope with these claims."

The following was stated in the paragraph bridging pages 2 and 3 of the Office Action:

"Page 16, lines 13-20 of the Specification of the instant application state that the thickness of the substrate film is in the range of 20 to 300 microns and when the thickness is smaller than 20 microns, the mechanical strength is insufficient and there is the possibility that the deformation by the input by a pen is excessively great and durability is insufficient when the hard coat film is used for a touch panel and when the thickness exceeds 300 microns, the pressure required to deform the film increases when the hard coat film is used for a touch panel. 'Therefore, a thickness outside the above range is not preferable'."

The applicants respectfully disagree with the above quoted allegation in the Office Action for the following reasons.

The description cited above describes only the preferable range of the thickness of the substrate film when the hard coat film is used for a touch panel. The presently claimed invention relates to a hard coat for protection of surfaces such as the surfaces of touch panels and displays, which suppresses attachment of finger prints on the surfaces during input operations by one's fingers (see page 1 of the specification under the heading "Field of the Invention"). The hard coat film of the present invention can be used to protect surfaces other than touch panels, such as displays in which an input operation by a person's finger is not necessarily made, avoiding the need to (i) suppress attachment of finger prints and (ii) enable the easy wiping-

off of attached dirt, such as finger prints, while scratch resistance and abrasion resistance are retained.

In Fig. 2 of the present application, an embodiment of using the hard coat film for protecting the surface of an optical disk is depicted. It is also described in the present specification that the hard coat film of the present invention can be used for protection of the surface of an optical disk such as a CD and a DVD (see page 6, lines 9 to 11 of the present specification). In such cases, as discussed hereinbefore, an input operation by a person's finger is not necessarily made, avoiding the need to suppress attachment of finger prints.

The present specification states that "The thickness of the substrate film is not particularly limited"(see page 16, line 12 of the present specification). There are many applications of the hard coat film of the presently claimed invention other than touch panels, where a thickness outside the range of 20 to 300 microns is applicable.

A very important feature of the presently claimed invention is that component (B) is a nonionic surfactant having a HLB of 2 to 15 which is incorporated in the hard coat layer for suppressing attachment of finger prints, and the feature of the thickness of

the substrate film being 20 to 300 microns is only an additional feature for applying the hard coat film to touch panels.

The following is stated in the last two paragraphs on page 3 of the Office Action:

"Page 17, lines 7-20 of the Specification of the instant application state that the fine particles provide the anti-glare property, and when the average diameter of the fine particles is smaller than 0.1 microns, the effect of providing the anti-glare property is not exhibited, and when average diameter exceeds 10 microns, the physical properties of the hard coat layer deteriorate. Furthermore, when the amount is less than 0.1 parts by weight, the effect of providing the anti-glare property is not exhibited and the amount exceeds 20 parts by weight, the physical properties of the hard coat layer deteriorates.

Hence, the above-discussed limitations are critical to the invention."

The applicants respectfully disagree with the above contentions for the following reasons.

Page 15, lines 14 to 15 of the present specification of the instant application state as follows:

"A rough shape may be formed on the surface of the hard coat layer of the hard coat film to provide the anti-glare property."

An anti-glare property is not an essential factor of

applicants' claim 1. The description on page 17, lines 7 to 20 of the specification, which was referred to in the Office Action, state only a preferable feature for attaining the anti-glare property when it is desired for a hard coat film.

With regard to the other two features discussed on page 2 of the Office Action, the thickness range of the hard coat layer and the range of the HLB of the nonionic surfactant (B), which were discussed on page 3, lines 3 to 12 of the Office Action, the applicants amended claim 1 by incorporating these features into claim 1.

In summary, currently amended claim 1 and the claims dependent directly or indirectly thereon can be practiced by a person of ordinary skill in the art to which it pertains or with which it is most nearly connected. Accordingly, the present claims are enabled by the specification.

Withdrawal of the rejection is therefore respectfully requested.

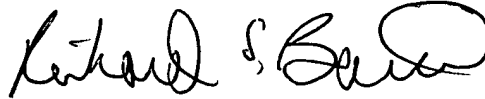
Reconsideration is requested. Allowance is solicited.

Enclosed is a check for \$72.00 in payment of four additional total claims.

If the Examiner has any comments, questions, objections or recommendations, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the telephone number given below for prompt action.

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Respectfully submitted,



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Enc.: Check for \$72.00